



Town of Island Falls

Growing Into Modern Times

Climate Study at Pleasant Pond

Warmer winters and summers seem to be changing our lakes. The question is “by how much?”. The Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine Sawyer Environmental Science Center has received a grant to study this question. Through the urging of our Lakes Association, Pleasant Pond was selected as one of the 12 lakes in the study. This week, two research scientists from the University of Maine drilled a hole through the ice near the deepest section of Pleasant Pond and removed a core sample of sediment.



Avery and Vendy (UMO Research Scientists) removing core sample.

Samples of the mud were then collected at 0.1 inch increments from top to bottom, spanning an age of 150 to 200 years of sediment. The environmental DNA of each sample will be analyzed to determine the concentration of toxic bacteria and changes in the lake chemistry over time. The changes will be compared to documentation of our changing climate, particularly warmer winters and summers.



Collecting samples of sediment every 0.1 inch.



Portable research laboratory on Pleasant Pond.

Tony